第16話
WELL THEN...
I DON'T WANT TO.
I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU TODAY AS WELL.
I DON'T WANT TO...

haa
haa
……
"SHIRAKI-SAMA."
I DON'T WANT TO—…
haa
haa
07
Morning scoop
Good morning. It's been cold everyday lately!
It's February starting today!
And February is all about Valentine's Day!

The streets are already filled with Valentine's Day atmosphere.
GLANCE
.....
Aah~ so it's already February, huh~
Papa really wants to eat sweets~
IGNORE
スルー
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY HUH...
GASP
は、
I MADE FRIENDS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR.
COULD IT BE... COULD IT BE...!!

-Dark middle school times-
CAN I DO THE "FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE" EVENT THAT I ALWAYS YEARNED FOR?!
LET'S EXCHANGE CHOCOLATES—
KUA
KUA
.....
ばっ
JUMPS
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE STANDING AROUND LIKE THIS...!!

LADY CHOUKO.
さっ
RUSTLE
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, PLEASE TAKE THIS.

AL-RIGHT!
THANKS! I'M OFF TO SCHOOL.
HAND-MADE, HUH...
SWEET LIFE
今年は手作りにチャレンジ！
T/N LEFT: LET'S CHALLENGE HANDMADE SNACKS THIS YEAR!
Good job Tougou!
PLEASE TAKE CARE.
HMM.....

バレンタイン特集
＊ザッハトルテ＊
材料
EVEN THOUGH I DECIDED TO MAKE
HANDMADE CHOCOLATES, I'VE NEVER TRIED MAKING SWEETS BEFORE....
SINCE ITS GOING TO BE MY FIRST TIME GIVING OUT FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES, I'D LIKE TO SECRETLY MAKE THEM
AND SURPRISE EVERYONE THOUGH....
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THESE?
CHOCOLATE, SACHERTORTE, MUFFINS,
CHOCOLATE FONDUE, BROWNIES, GATEAU CHOCOLATE...
THEY ALL SOUND DELICIOUS...
SWEET LIFE
CHOUKO-CHAN.
STARTLED
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY?
!

SHI-ROGANE -SENPAI!
DID YOU JUST GET TO SCHOOL NOW?
It's already lunch-time you know?!
YEAH.
I WAS SO IMMERSED IN MY RESEARCH THAT THAT I ENDED UP OVERSLEEP-ING.☆
.. HUH?
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE PALE, SENPAI?
AAH..
TOUCH
I JUST HAD A BAD DREAM....
AH.
...?

A FEATURE ON VALENTINE'S DAY?
PICKS UP
UM! THIS IS....
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THEM, CHOUKO-CHAN?
...UM, COULD YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE?
SACHER-TORTE, HUH...
NO, THAT'S...
I'VE NEVER MADE SWEETS BEFORE...
SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT I SHOULD DO...
HMM...
I WONDER WHO YOU'RE PLANNING TO GIVE THESE HAND-MADE CHOCOLATES TO, CHOUKO-CHAN~?

AH....
MY FATHER, TOUGOU, KURU-MI-CHAN, KAREN, AND—
AND....
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
.....
....EVERYONE FROM THE FOUR COLOR CLANS, SINCE THEY'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER ME....

っっ
BLUSH
かっかっか
FM Scans

OH MY OH MY, THIS IS —....
COULD IT BE—
For some reason...
My face is suddenly hot...
—THAT CHOUKO-CHAN ISN'T AWARE OF IT YET?
THE FOUR COLOR CLANS ... HUH.
FOR SOME REASON, IT ISN'T THAT INTEREST-ING...
IS THERE ANYONE WHO COULD TEACH YOU~?
NO, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE AT ALL...
I'M PRETTY SKILLED AT COOKING, YOU KNOW?
Huuh?!
HUH?
THEN SHOULD I TEACH YOU?

I'M CONSIDERABLY SKILLED, EVEN THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS.
How mean—
I ALSO WORKED VARIOUS PART TIME JOBS
IN ORDER TO EARN MY RESEARCH FUNDS UP UNTIL NOW.
Ah!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
SENPAI WAS WORKING THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM!
BESIDES, COOKING—
—is just like experimenting, so it's lots of fun.♥
SMILE
I WONDER WHY...
WHEN HE PUTS IT LIKE THAT, HE SOUNDS REALLY PERSUASIVE, BUT
I HAVE A SCARY FEELING THAT SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS WILL BE MADE—..
.....
SMILE

-The following Saturday-
CREAK
キィ…
I WONDER IF SHIROGANE-SENPAI ISN'T HERE YET…
キョロ
GLANCE
キョロ
GLANCE
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM EVERY-ONE—
…YOU CAN COME TO MY HOUSE NEXT WEEKEND TO MAKE THE CHOCO-LATE.
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP AT YOUR HOUSE, SO
MAKE SURE YOU SNEAK AWAY, OKAY?
ブロロロ…
VROOOM

SCREECH!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, CHOU-KO-CHAN.
GET ON.
SHIROGANE-SENPAI?!

SO YOU RIDE A BIKE, HUH!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M RIDING ONE!
IS THAT SO?
THEN IT'S MY HONOR~
WEL-COME.
Wah!
PARDON THE IN-TRUSION~
DO YOU LIVE ALONE, SENPAI?
YEAH.
I OFTEN END UP STAYING THE NIGHT AT THE RESEARCH LAB THOUGH.
FM Scans

BAM
.....CHOU-KO-CHAN.
YES?
SEN...PAI?
FOR A WOMAN TO COME INTO A MAN'S HOUSE
SO CASUALLY WHEN HE LIVES ALONE,
AREN'T YOU BEING TOO CARELESS?

OR
WERE YOU EXPECTING SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN?
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES IS VERY COMPOSED, SENPAI.
.....
....YOUR ACTING IS TERRIBLE, SENPAI.

THAT'S NOT THE LOOK OF SOMEONE WHO'S LOOKING AT THE PERSON THEY LOVE.
EVEN IF IT'S NOT SOMEONE YOU LOVE,
CHUCKLE
PEOPLE CAN STILL MAKE A MOVE, YOU KNOW?
SHIROGANE-SENPAI.
YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE YOURSELF TODAY.
You're being a bully
THAT'S THE LOOK OF SOMEONE WHO'S TESTING ME.
....RATHER THAN JUST TODAY...
EVER SINCE WE MET IN THE GARDEN THE OTHER DAY?
YOU'VE BEEN A BIT TENSE SINCE THEN...

!
SENPAI?
REACH
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION
FOR HER TO ANALYZE MY STATE
AND WORRY ABOUT ME TOO...
THIS GIRL IS REALLY—....
FM Scans
SO I WAS DE-FEAT-ED AGAIN, HUH— ...
A—ah, I failed!
I WANTED TO SEE YOU ALL FLUSTERED AND PANICKY. WHAT A SHAME~☆
I was even worried about you!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT!
GEEZ!
COME ON STOP DOING SUCH FOOLISH THINGS
AND LET'S HURRY UP AND GET STARTED!
We don't have time!!
Yeah yea—h.

THAT SURPRISED ME! THAT REALLY SURPRISED ME!!
WAH~!!
.....
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
You're so enthusiastic~
SLAP
SLAP
I'll be careful from now on!
IT'S TOO CARELESS TO MEET HIM ONE ON ONE.
I SEE... EVEN THOUGH HE'S A CANDIDATE TO BE MY AIDE,
BEAUTIFULLY DONE

I'LL TAKE YOU HOME THEN.
Here, put on the helmet.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY.
YEAH. IT WAS A LITTLE DANGER-OUS AT FIRST,
BUT YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER.
I THINK IT WENT PRETTY WELL FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.
IT'S BE-CAUSE YOUR TEACHING WAS GOOD, SHI-ROGANE-SENPAI.
Hehehe~
AH!
MY MUF-FLER- IT'S IN SENPAI'S ROOM...
I forgot about it.
AAH,
THEN I'LL GO GET IT.
Wait here.
I'M SORRY.

CHOUKO-CHAN?!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, CHOU-KO-CHAN—....
KYAA!
SO THIS WAS AN AMBUSH TARGETING CHOU-KO-CHAN, HUH—...
BUT
ONLY SENDING IN TWO PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH ME...
THEY'RE UNDER-ESTIMAT-ING ME

APPEAR
CHOUKO-CHAN,
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT. I'LL SAVE YOU RIGHT AWAY.
OH MY. PLEASE DON'T MOVE.
SO THERE WAS ONE MORE —...
PLEASE DON'T MAKE SUCH A SCARY EXPRESSION.
WE DO NOT WANT TO HARM YOU IN ANY WAY.

HEY.
"SHIRAKI-SAMA."
!
....HOW
DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?
…?
FM Scans

I WAS IN YOUR CARE ONCE IN THE PAST.
I WANTED TO BORROW "SHIRAKI-SAMA"'S POWER ONE MORE TIME.
haa
.....I THOUGHT
I HAD GOTTEN RID OF EVERYONE WHO KNEW OF THAT NAME....
SHUDDER
!

CHOUKO-CHAN...
SENPAI ...?
I THOUGHT I ASKED YOU
TO NOT MOVE EARLIER.
CLINK
I'LL FINISH THIS RIGHT AWAY, SO CAN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A BIT?
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME.....
FLAP

!
CLINK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS OLD WOMAN.
.....
AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF "SHIRAKI-SAMA."
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTOOD SO QUICKLY

SHI-ROGANE-SENPAI...?
....CHOU-KO-CHAN.
....SORRY.
KNOCK
KNOCK
LADY CHOUKO.
ARE YOU IN THERE?
KNOCK
KNOCK
LADY CHOUKO ...?

FM Scans

"SHIRAKI-SAMA"
ARE YOU COMFORTABLE?
IN ORDER FOR YOU TO FEEL AT HOME,
WE MADE IT SO THAT IT HAS THE SAME INTERIOR AS THAT TIME.
ISN'T IT NOSTALGIC?
AAH... IT REALLY IS
IN BAD TASTE. TO THE POINT OF MAKING ME SICK
BUT
THANKS TO YOU, I REMEMBERED...
YOU'RE NISHIZAKI... YOU'RE THAT GUY'S SON, RIGHT?
YES.
I WAS OVERSEAS, SO I MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY SEE YOU PURGE

—BUT I'M A LITTLE TROUBLED.
LATELY, THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE IN PEOPLE WHO ARE A HINDRANCE.
BUT THANKS TO THAT PURGE, OUR BUSINESS RIVALS DRASTICALLY DECREASED,
AND MY JOB BECAME A LOT EASIER.
I WISHED TO BORROW "SHIRA-KI-SAMA"'S POWER,
WHICH IS WHY I INVITED YOU HERE.
PLEASE PARDON ME FOR SUCH AN UNENJOY-ABLE INVITATION.
...YOU ONLY HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME, RIGHT?

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW~? MANAKA CHOUKO-SAN.
—THIS PERSON
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
LET HER GO.
!
SHE'S NOT COMPLETELY UNRELATED
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD MEET YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, BUT
YOU'RE THE MASTER "SHIRAKI-SA-MA" DESIRES, RIGHT?

...IF YOU KNOW THAT MUCH, THEN YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
I'M STILL A "NINJA".
IF I'M GOING TO BE A BURDEN TO MY MASTER,
THAN I'D RATHER CHOOSE DEATH.
SHUT UP!
SHI-ROGANE-SENPAI!
SENPAI AND I STILL AREN'T....
...っ

HMM...
THERE WOULD BE NO MEANING TO MY RETURN TO JAPAN IF I LET YOU DIE.
THAT'S QUITE TROUBLING.
AAH, THEN LET'S DO THIS!
IF YOU TAKE FIVE OF MY REQUESTS,
THEN I'LL LET THE LADY OVER THERE GO.
....IS THAT THE TRUTH?
FM Scans

I'M A MAN WHO KEEPS HIS WORD AFTER ALL.
OF COURSE
.....
....I GOT IT.
FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THIS PERSON'S "PROPHECY".
ALRIGHT THEN. WITHOUT DELAY—
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SLIP

LOOSEN
FWOOSH
CLATTER

.....?
.....
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
23:01
23:05
23:40
23:58
SCRIBBLE
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE MAKING SENPAI DO...?
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
OH MY.
FWOOSH
ARE YOU FINISHED ALREADY?

!?
SHI-ROGANE-SENPAI!!
PAT
AHA! AMAZING!
ha
ha
haa
haa
COUGH
COUGH
JUST AS ONE WOULD EXPECT
OF "SHIRA-KI-SAMA" WHAT FAST WORK!
COUGH

SHUDDER
ぶるんっ
…っ！
GLANCE
チラ
...BUT IF THERE'S A MISTAKE
IN THIS PROPHECY—...
...SHUT UP.
DON'T SHOW THAT UNPLEASANT FACE AROUND ANYMORE!
OOH, SO SCARY.
ANYWAYS, "SHIRAKI-SAMA"—

CREAK
I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE TOMORROW AS WELL.
SHUTS
COUGH
...WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON —?
第4巻 終

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